NEWS RELEASE

Hon. Robert T. Matsui Member of Congress

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Monday, December 8, 2003



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MATSUI SECURES \$2.5 MILLION FOR SACRAMENTO DEVELOPMENT AND TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Congressman Robert T. Matsui (D-Sacramento) announced today the House of Representatives approved \$2.5 million in federal funding for development and transportation projects in Sacramento. The funding was included in the FY 2004 omnibus appropriations bill.

"Sacramento is a growing, vibrant city," Matsui said. "These projects will provide exciting opportunities for the city's development and will improve residents' quality of life."

Sacramento will receive \$500,000 to continue planning and evaluating a project to cover a section of Interstate 5, bringing the city closer to its goal of reconnecting downtown Sacramento and the waterfront. Covering, or "decking", I-5 could potentially create over two blocks of usable business and recreational development space for the city.

"Connecting downtown to the riverfront is the cornerstone of growth and economic development in Sacramento," Matsui said. "I am very pleased this project can advance."

The Sacramento Regional Transit (RT) District will receive \$500,000 to continue planning and designing a new bus maintenance facility. RT currently uses only one facility in downtown Sacramento to service the city's entire fleet of buses. A new facility would provide more maintenance and parking space for its buses. RT would also be able to use the space as a natural gas filling station for their CNG buses.

"The new facility will greatly expand RT's ability to serve the Sacramento's growing transit needs," Matsui said.

Sacramento will also receive \$1.5 million to continue the city's Jobs Access Reverse Commute (JARC) program. This program provides additional transit options for residents of low employment areas and facilitates their access to jobs, education, and area businesses.

"I am very pleased this very successful program will continue to receive funding," Matsui said. "JARC greatly benefits low-income families throughout Sacramento."

The omnibus appropriations bill must now be passed by the Senate and signed by the President.